

Serial No. 10/767,678
Atty. Doc. No. 2002P10618US

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, and 12. Thus, claims 1-20 are pending and presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to Rejections Under Section 112:

The Examiner has rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have clarified claim 12 to recite that the coolant (not the flow medium) is flowing through the cooling channel. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this indefiniteness rejection to claim 12.

Request for Allowance Claim 3:

The Examiner indicated that claim 3 contained patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 3 to include the limitations of claim 1, and therefore respectfully request allowance of claim 3.

Response to Rejections Under Section 102:

Claims 1, 5, 6, and 11 - 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the Examiner contending that these claims are anticipated by Haje et al. (DE 19819508 A1). Applicants respectfully submit that while Examiner cites Haje as anticipating Applicants' claims, Examiner discusses features of Kreitmeier (US 6,626,637 B2) in the Detailed Action section of the Office Action. Thus, Applicants respectfully presume Examiner intended to reference Kreitmeier.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 to include the limitation that the cooling medium is steam (see e.g. Applicants' specification page 11 lines 29 – 33). In contrast, Kreitmeier discloses that the cooling medium is air (see e.g. Kreitmeier specification column 2 lines 32 – 33). Applicants use of steam as a cooling medium is not a matter of mere design choice but provides a cooling system that can matching the parameters of the cooling medium to the parameters of the working medium (see e.g. Applicants' specification page 8 lines 32 – 35).

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Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of independent claims 1 and 12, as well as dependent claims 2, and 4 - 20 which depend from claims 1 and 12.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the Section 102 rejection.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: JP Musone
John P. Musone
Registration No. 44,961
(407) 736-6449

Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830